

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 NSF-01 SS-15 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 OIC-02 HEW-02 IO-10 EB-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ABF-01 AID-05 SP-02 /075 W

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R 111405Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 558

INFO DHEW WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10848

DHEW PASS TO PHS/OIH

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: TBIO, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: WHO MOSQUITO GENETICS PROJECT

REF: A. STATE 188272 B. NEW DELHI 10370

1. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (MOHFP) OFFICIALS, A STATEMENT WAS PREPARED FOR THE LOK SABHA IN MAY REFUTING THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT AND POINTING OUT THE GENERAL BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT, PARTICULARLY SINCE MALARIA HAS BECOME A SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEM IN INDIA. THE STATEMENT INDICATED THAT THE PROJECT WOULD BE REFORMED AND THE ANOPHELES MOSQUITO (CARRIER OF MALARIA) WOULD BE THE PRIMARY SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATION. THE STATEMENT ALSO INDICATES THAT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE INDIAN COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR) WILL CONTINUE THE PROJECT IN ANOTHER LOCATION WITHOUT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

2. BEGIN COMMENT: THE ICMR HAS REQUESTED RS.1.5 MILLION FROM THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE TO CONTINUE THIS PROJECT AT THE POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL INSTITUTE IN PONDICHERRY. IN THE MEANTIME, THEY HAVE MOVED THE MOSQUITO GENETICS LABORATORY TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNICABLE

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DISEASES IN NEW DELHI, WHICH IS DIRECTLY UNDER THE MINISTRY

OF HEALTH'S JURISDICTION.

3. WITH THE CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF FUNDS FOR HEALTH PROGRAMS, AND WITHOUT AN ABLE LEADER FOR THE PROJECT (NO ONE HAS YET BEEN SELECTED), WE WOULD NOT BE AT ALL SURPRISED IF THE PROJECT DIED A SLOW DEATH. SO BE IT.

4. AS INDICATED IN PAST MESSAGES, WE DO NOT FEEL WE SHOULD CONTINUE BEATING A DEAD HORSE. THIS PROJECT IS OVER. LET'S MOVE ON FROM HERE TO SEEK AN UNDERSTANDING THAT BOTH GOVERNMENT'S WILL PREVENT FUTURE UNJUSTIFIED ATTACKS. END COMMENT.
SAXBE

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